



July 2014

# The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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## "But Do You Care?"

Some years back, David Augsberger, in his helpful book, Caring Enough to Confront, proposed that confrontation can be an act of care. Its neglect to preserve the sheen of placidity over troubled waters be they churning at home, the office or in congregational life allows for abuse. Denial becomes the unjumped hurdle separating us from peace within and between us. Fearing the change we don't know and embracing the out-of-kilterness we know too well, we stay rutted. Avoidance morphs from benign neglect to systemic malignancy. Perhaps we church folk struggle with confrontation because we're taught, "Be nice." The biblical admonition is, after all, not to judge lest we be judged. When we honestly search ourselves, are there not those instances we have been wrong on an issue? It may bear the scratch marks of iron gripped conviction but absolute sincerity does not have truth locked up. In our clearest self-awareness, we've realized, "the log has been in my eye." So, we're more careful to just let things be.



No mistaking it, there is a cost to confronting. The PCUSA General Assembly voted last month to divest from three companies deemed to be contributing to the hostility between Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied territories. Divestment is a confrontation. Thoughtful believers have raised concerns about whether divesting Presbyterian funds from Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard and Motorola will ultimately promote the longed for peace. Will this symbolic confrontation enhance opportunities of peace making between long-term rivals? Will it be a sign of positive concern for a better relationship between Israelis and Palestinians, between Jews and Christians and Muslims? Will it foster condemnation and cut-offs from further dialogue, or will there be more discernment between Presbyterians some of whom regard the decision as wrong-headed and others who see it as a last but important option for moving beyond the rhetoric of peace to a reality in which Israelis and Palestinians live in peace. Could it be a tiny step toward all living in security within defined, agreed upon and respected borders? Will the action be primarily talking peace or making peace?

The Rev. Matri Raheb, founder of Dar al-Kalima University College and pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, has invited us not to just pray for peace but to advocate for peace and to invest for peace as well. "Jesus chose his words very carefully," Raheb says. "He didn't say, 'Blessed are the peace talkers.' He said, 'blessed are the peace makers.'" The motivation to do just that lies in experiencing the blessed "peace beyond understanding which will keep our hearts and minds in the sure knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, his son, forever." So assured, we

have work to do to give peace a chance.

Peace be with you,

### ***Bill***

#### General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments

##### July

- 08 Committee on Ministry, Conway
- 08 Session Meeting, FPC, Lonoke
- 10-11 EP Forum and Stated Clerks Meeting, Irving, TX
- 16-17 Family Leave, Oklahoma City
- 20 Preach, FPC, Yellville
- 27 Worship, FPC, Prairie Grove, John King's retirement
- 29 Church World Service Training, FUMC, Conway

##### August

- 03 Worship and conversation, FPC, Pine Bluff
- 09 Presbyterian Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock
- 10 Arkansas Interfaith Event, FUMC, Little Rock
- 16 General Committee, FPC, Conway
- 18-20 Theological Education Fund Meeting, McCormick Seminary, Chicago
- 22 Committee on Ministry/Committee on Preparation, Irving, TX
- 23 Administration Committee, Budget Hearings
- 24 Ordination/Installation Service, Becky Purcell, Fayetteville and Prairie Grove

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## **Church Employment Opportunity near our Presbytery**

**Christian Education Director** -- First Presbyterian Church of Texarkana, Arkansas is seeking a full-time Christian Education Director to oversee and develop the overall educational program of the church. The current emphasis for this position will be on development of children's ministry with some support of youth and other educational ministry. For a job description, click this link: <http://www.firstprestexarkana.org/wp-content/uploads/DCE.pdf>. Resumes may be emailed to [1stpresbytxk@cableone.net](mailto:1stpresbytxk@cableone.net). For questions about the position please call either of the search committee's co-

moderators: Jeff Daniels, 1-903-280-1424 or Corey Sharp, 1-903-556-7853.

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## People and Church News

### News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to the family of **Rev. James Earl Westbrook**, 98, of Russellville who died in Jasper, AR on June 7. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

A native of Benton, AR, Westbrook graduated from Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, and was a US Army Veteran of WWII who retired from the chaplain corps as colonel in 1980. He graduated from Louisville Seminary, served Presbyterian churches in Indiana and Oklahoma, and from 1962 to his retirement in 1981 was pastor of Central Presbyterian, Russellville. In the presbytery he served on evangelism and finance committees, as moderator of Synod of OK and AR and on coordinating council of Synod of the Sun. In retirement he was chaplain for the AR Tech ROTC in Russellville.

Westbrook was pre-deceased by his wife of 70 years, Madie, last year and is survived by a son, a daughter, two grandchildren, nieces and nephews. The funeral service was held on June 19 at Central, Russellville with Rev. Brian Brock officiating. Memorials were designated to the church or a charity of one's choice.

--**Gina King** began duties on June 17 as the new office manager at First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville.

--**Rev. David Reed, honorably retired, and wife Rev. Linda Whitworth-Reed** welcomed family and friends on June 28 to a house blessing service at their retirement home in Hot Springs Village. Linda is transitional pastor at Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--Congratulations to **Heather Young and Cameron Highsmith** who were married on June 14 in Little Rock. Cameron is a candidate for ministry under care of this presbytery and the son of Sam Highsmith, former moderator of the presbytery.

--Christian sympathy goes to Wayne Clark and family on the death of **Ruling Elder Janet Clark** on June 22 in Berryville. She was moderator of presbytery in 1994.

--**Pam Luther** retired on June 29 as administrative associate at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, completing almost 25 years. **Sharon Hughes** began on July 1 as receptionist at Second Presbyterian.

--**Rev. Jerry Rice**, honorably retired, of Rogers is recuperating from heart surgery. He is pastor emeritus of First, Rogers.

--**Lee Woodruff Harvey** will begin duties as Director of Family Ministries at First, Rogers in August.

### News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**First, Springdale** has established the Springdale FPC Channel on YouTube for their worship services.

--**Mount Comfort Presbyterian, Fayetteville** and other northwest AR churches will lead the national anthem on Aug. 8 at a game of the Naturals Baseball team.

--**Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith** hosted Vacation Bible School June 23-26 for their congregation

and those of **First, Van Buren and First, Fort Smith.**

--**First, Benton** enjoyed a Pentecost picnic after worship on June 8 and the 5th Sunday old-time religion hymn sing on June 29.

--**First, Little Rock** Session shares a book study at their meetings and has adopted a street as part of the city's program to clean up four block areas every other month.

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** adult Sunday School class studied the Death Penalty in Arkansas during June with the attorney general, department of corrections leader, criminal justice professor, prosecuting attorney and defense counsel as speakers.

--**First, Conway** fed a FEMA volunteer crew and their benevolence fund benefitted from a rummage sale by church members on the grounds on June 7.

--**First, Batesville** is one of several congregations who assembled disaster clean-up buckets to send to Faulkner County after the April 27th tornadoes.

--**First, Siloam Springs** sent Easter gifts and a check to Lindsey Seader, a missionary in China, and raised money for baby bottles for New Beginnings Pregnancy Services.

--**First, Harrison** hosted Grammy-nominated bluegrass musicians Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver in concert on June 20 with a portion of the proceeds to be used at the church.

--**Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs** will participate in Theological Education Sunday on Sept. 21.

--**First, Malvern** will welcome to the pulpit on July 13 Jo Kretzler, graduated senior at Austin Seminary, as the winner of the 2014 Chidester Preaching Award, which was established by the congregation.

--**First, Fort Smith** honored teachers, new members and Pentecost itself with a picnic, swimming, fishing and games.

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### [Resource Center News](#)

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director  
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104  
Tuesday-Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.



\*\*\* We have 5 copies of the 2014-2015 Presbyterian Planning Calendars available for \$13.75 each. \*\*\*

### **PRESBYTERY FACEBOOK PAGE**

If you have events that you want the people of the Presbytery to know about, post them to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas). Rev. Anne Russ at First, North Little Rock (Argenta) at 501.374.7677 or email [revruss@gmail.com](mailto:revruss@gmail.com) will be glad to answer your questions.

YOUR RESOURCE CENTER still has available the popular interpretive piece from "The Presbyterian Outlook" magazine, the **summary of actions taken at last month's General Assembly meeting** in the form of bulletin inserts. I can email a master for you to reproduce for your congregation upon request.

### **IDEAS FOR LATE SUMMER**

--Many of our churches elect to close down Sunday morning Sunday School for all or part of the summer, which provides teachers and leaders with a well-deserved break. Here are two alternative and creative ideas to encourage and enable on-going learning in the summer.

**Director of Christian Education Mary Shaw, First, Springdale** offers **FPC Family Summer Calendar**, much like those for Advent and Lent. It offers daily ideas for family fun, scripture reading, prayers and weekly mission-related focus and includes all of the church activities. For teens she offers a weekly page, "**Between You and God**" designed to help them reflect on what it means to be a child of God. Finally for adults four studies from [thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://thethoughtfulchristian.com) on topics like Drought in the American West, Prosperity Gospel, New Testament book of James and Should the Ten Commandments be displayed in public? are available on their narthex table.

**First Presbyterian, Arkadelphia** has a long history of Coffee Talks in the summer. Suggestion slips to write topics to discuss are placed in the narthex and adult classrooms and are drawn at random on the preceding week; typically no one knows who wrote the question to discuss. That topic is presented in worship and publicized through email that week to the congregation as the leader studies the topic. Over coffee and donuts interested adults discuss the topic on Sunday morning. Examples include: Are angels still around? Do we (like some of the New Testament writers) judge those who sin or do we expect only God to judge? How do we explain why God lets tragedies happen to some and not to others? What is our role as some churches have dropped their support for the Boy Scouts? Is there a biblical basis for infant baptism? What makes communion sacred and who should participate in it? What constructive things can a congregation and individual members do to help our church in a pastor-less season?

#### **NEW ITEMS FROM OUR DENOMINATION**

Presby Youth is a new online resource for individual congregations to explore that now offers downloaded quarterly curriculum for tweens, younger youth, and older youth. Categorized by age-levels, liturgical seasons, and biblical themes, lessons are easy to use, age appropriate, scripturally based and rooted in Reformed tradition.

The 2014-2015 Horizons Bible Study "**Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians**" by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty is now available for loan from YOUR Resource Center. Presbyterian Women groups usually use this resource from fall through spring.

#### **RECOMMENDED ONLINE RESOURCES FOR BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER**

My colleague on the board of the Presbyterian Association of Resource Centers Kathryn McGregor, now a DCE in South Carolina, wrote an excellent article in a recent "Horizons" magazine recommending these websites and smartphone apps. For Bible study, she commends BibleGateway.com which offers Bible translations and resources on their website and an app; Globible.com which is an interactive, digital Bible; and Faithlifebible.com website and free app. She suggests for devotion use d365.org sponsored by an ecumenical group especially for youth and young adults and free, short-term, downloadable devotions from Daily Bible Study app. Prayer apps McGregor applauds are free from Prayerbowls.com and affordable from the Daily Prayer PC(USA)

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE P.L.A.C.E. educational event on Saturday, August 9, at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. See links to workshop, flyers, brochures, and registration material elsewhere in this edition of The BANNER and on the presbytery's website.

#### **RESOURCE CENTER HOURS**

Continuing this month I am ordinarily in the Resource Center only on Tuesday and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. Self-service hours in the Resource Center are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Thursday and Friday. If these latter days are the best for your visits, I'll gladly gather resources for you to pick up and as usual, I'll mail resources to patrons on the days I'm here.

**REMEMBER OUR ONLINE CATALOG!** Just go to the [www.presbyteryofarkansas.org](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org) website, click on "Resources," then on "Resource Center" and "click here to search the catalog" to conduct a simple or advanced search for just the right item.

*(The Resource Center receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education)*

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### **Gonzalez Family Honored at Farewell Reception**



**Jesse and Berta Gonzalez** with their sons, **Obed** and **Abner**, were honored with a farewell reception at First Presbyterian Church, Springdale on June 29, Jesse's last Sunday as Presbytery Evangelist and pastor of Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana. Jesse has been called as the transitional pastor of First Presbyterian Church, McAllen, Texas.

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## Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

*Youth Advisory Team (YAT) to meet Aug. 9 & 10*

*The Youth Advisory Team will have its annual Fall Retreat/Meeting Aug. 9 and 10 in Little Rock. To find out more about YAT (or to inquire about joining!), please see the link below or contact Bud McConkie, 2014-2015 Adult Co-Moderator at [SBMcconkie@gmail.com](mailto:SBMcconkie@gmail.com). We are looking for Youth (10th-12th grades), College-Age Students, and Adults who care about ministry with young people!*

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Youth%20Advisory%20Team%20Application%20&%20letter%202014-2015.pdf>

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**Want to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery? "Like" us on Facebook!**

Search

**PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry**

on Facebook,

or go to

[www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry)

This page is for anyone wishing to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery -- Youth Workers, parents, youth, Educators, Pastors.

(Presbytery's Youth Ministry receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education.)



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## D. C. Adams Installed as Pastor at First, Harrison



D. C. Adams was installed as pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Harrison, Arkansas on Sunday, June 22, 2014 at 4:00 pm. Members of the Administrative Commission pictured are (left to right): TE Fred Taylor, TE Carl McCormack, TE Nancy Taylor, TE D. C. Adams, TE Jane Huffstetler, TE Clare Kelley, Margie Bullock, Harry Cikanik, and Claudia Brigham.

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## Last Chance to Register for "The P.L.A.C.E."

The Christian Education Committee invites everyone to "The P.L.A.C.E" seminar to be held Saturday, August 9th at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. "P.L.A.C.E." is an acronym for **P**resbytery **L**eadership **A**cademy for **C**ongregational **E**nrichment.

This is a wonderful opportunity for many different types of church leaders (clergy, elders, deacons, and laity) and many different ages (Kids Kamp led by Ferncliff counselors, Youth workshops and/or mission projects, workshops for ministers and CREs). There are special savings for congregations that register groups for this event! Registration continues through August 1st.

For a registration packet, [click here](#).  
For a schedule of the event, [click here](#).

For descriptions of the workshops, [click here](#).

You can also find copies of these documents on the presbytery's webpage ([www.presbyteryofarkansas.org](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org)) under "Resources | Presbytery Documents".

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## **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is a mission program of PC(USA)

**Q: We haven't figured out a good way to back up our computer data, so if -God forbid! - we have a fire at the church office, we're likely to lose not only our computer but also all our data. What can we do to prevent a total loss? (July 2014)**

A: Short answer: The easiest way is to take a flash drive with updated data home every night and weekend.

Longer answer, from Parish Data System, at <http://wiki.acstechnologies.com/display/PDSCO/The+Basics+of+Backing+Up+Data> who describe this data backup plan for churches. See if this helps.

"We recommend backing up your data each day and storing it in a secure, off-site location."

### **Planning a Backup Strategy**

To help you plan a backup strategy, we recommend the following:

- \*Commit to a plan that includes a schedule for making daily or weekly backups.
- \*Test your backup process and restore your data monthly or quarterly.
- \*Store at least one month's worth of data on multiple sets of backup media for extra protection.
- \*Keep a log to record dates and details about your backups. Include when the backup happened, who made the backup, and which backup set [if you alternate between several different flash drives or disks] was used."

Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee

## Presbytery of Arkansas Responds to April 27th Tornadoes

An EF4 tornado struck central Arkansas leaving a path of destruction 40 miles long. The aftermath revealed 16 fatalities and homes, businesses, schools, churches, and municipal buildings destroyed. Communities impacted include Paron, Mayflower, Saltillo, Vilonia, and El Paso. The damage assessment lists 337 homes destroyed and 102 homes with major damage (more than 1,300 people lost their homes). Note that 41% of the homes were uninsured.

So how can we "make visible the body of Christ"? A few suggestions are:

**1. PRAY** that those who mourn will be comforted, that those who hunger will be filled, that the meek will inherit... Pray.

**2. GIVE** to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance PC(USA) P.O. Box 643700 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700, Presbytery of Arkansas "Disaster Assistance" 9221 N. Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, AR 72227, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Arkansas Food Bank, Arkansas Rice Depot, Faulkner Relief, ... Give.

**3. ACT** by sending Church World Service kits to Ferncliff, sending needed items to Faulkner Relief warehouse 501-366-3936 <http://www.faulknerrelief.com/donations-warehouse>, volunteering to do cleanup and repair Vilonia 501-232-0630 ext. 106 [jbryant@ardreamcenter.tv](mailto:jbryant@ardreamcenter.tv) or Mayflower ext. 105 [bstell@ardreamcenter.tv](mailto:bstell@ardreamcenter.tv), volunteering through PDA National Call Center 866-732-6121 <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pda/volunteer-opportunities/#ar> ... Act.

Agencies and organizations including faith based organizations continue to respond. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, has approved 306 applications with total dollars approved exceeding \$2.5 million (maximum FEMA grant for a home is \$30,400). In Faulkner County where 80% of the damage occurred a nonprofit organization, Arkansas Dream Center, is coordinating volunteers. Thousands have responded; however, more work remains. Nucor Corp. of Conway is loaning a large warehouse for receiving donations. Volunteers are sorting and issuing items as needed. Needs are posted on the above website.

In a few months many of the agencies will close their Arkansas 2014 recovery operations and return to normal activities. Efforts are underway to activate existing long term recovery organizations, LTOs, and to organize LTOs where they do not exist. Long term recovery for a disaster of this magnitude is historically 4 years. We closed our last case from the 2011 Vilonia tornado in April 2013.

Respectfully, James Anderson, Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee, moderator

--This message is brought to you by the Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee. Additional information is available at <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmDisasterResponse.aspx>

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## General Assembly in Detroit



Commissioners **Mary Beth Lysobey** (first row, far left) and **Anne Russ** (first row, far right) gathered with other commissioners from the Synod of the Sun for the Synod's lunch at the General Assembly.



Arkansas' Young Adult Advisory Delegate **Judy Hernandez** (right) meets with the General Assembly's Stated Clerk **Gradye Parsons**.



Several members of the Presbytery of Arkansas delegation are pictured enjoying the group dinner at the General Assembly in Detroit. Clockwise from top are:

Chris McRae (Solar Under the Sun), Ruthie McRae (Solar Under the Sun), Bill Galbraith (General Presbyter), Anne Russ (Commissioner), Camille LeBron Powell (Commissioner), Britton Varn (Presbytery Coordinator for Youth), Susie Wiggins (General Assembly Assistant).

Not pictured are: Mary Beth Lysobey (Commissioner), Judy Hernandez (Young Adult Advisory Delegate) and Ed Wilkinson (Commissioner).

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## **Synod of the Sun Sponsors Mission Convocation**

The Synod of the Sun is organizing a Mission Convocation.

The Convocation will be held Saturday, November 8th at Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving, TX. The theme of the event is "Mission Possible--There is No Box." Keynote speaker is Vera White, with Bill Lawser giving a presentation on "Asset Mapping."

The early registration fee is \$15. For more details, [click here for a flyer](#).

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**Prayer List for Congregations -- 2014** can be found [here](#).

(Note: some web browsers may require you to press and hold the "Ctrl" key while you click the link to reach the linked website).

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[Presbytery Calendar](#)

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**PRESBYTERY STAFF:**

General Presbyter [BILL GALBRAITH](#)

Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

Resourcing Director [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Assistant Stated Clerk [DAVID DYER](#)

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#)

Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)

Treasurer ["BUZZ" ROBERTS](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [CLARE KELLEY](#)

Moderator of the General Committee [SHERÉE NIECE](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [ED WILKINSON](#)

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The Presbytery of Arkansas is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is part of the Reformed family of churches within the universal Church of Jesus Christ. Our vision is ***to make visible the body of Christ*** (Acts II).

We are composed of over 14,000 Presbyterians gathered in 87 active churches, two new church developments and two fellowships located in various towns and cities in the northern two-thirds of the State of Arkansas.

Phone 501.663.2424 Fax 501.224.2429 <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org>